

Iowa State Law  
IA Code Ann.  
Chapter 724. Weapons

**724.1. Offensive weapons.** An offensive weapon is any device or instrumentality of the following types;

**1. A machinegun.** A machinegun is a firearm which shoots or is designed to shoot more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger.

**2. A short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun.** A short-barreled rifle or short-barreled shotgun is a rifle with a barrel or barrels less than sixteen inches in length or a shotgun with a barrel or barrels less than eighteen inches in length, as measured from the face of the closed bolt or standing breech to the muzzle, or any rifle or shotgun with an overall length less than twenty-six inches.

**3.** Any weapon other than a shotgun or muzzle loading rifle, cannon, pistol, revolver or musket, which fires or can be made to fire a projectile by the explosion of a propellant charge, which has a barrel or tube with the bore of more than six-tenths of an inch in diameter, or the ammunition or projectile therefor, but not including antique weapons kept for display or lawful shooting.

**4.** A bomb, grenade, or mine, whether explosive, incendiary, or poison gas; any rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces; any missile having an explosive charge of more than one-quarter ounce; or any device similar to any of these. \* \* \* \*

**6.** Any part or combination of parts either designed or intended to be used to convert any device into an offensive weapon as described in subsections 1 to 5 of this section, or to assemble into such an offensive weapon, except magazines or other parts, ammunition, or ammunition components used in common with lawful sporting firearms or parts including but not limited to barrels suitable for refitting to sporting firearms.

**7.** Any bullet or projectile containing any explosive mixture or chemical compound capable of exploding or detonating prior to or upon impact, or any shotshell or cartridge containing \* \* \*.

**8.** Any mechanical device specifically constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm silences, muffles or suppresses the sound when fired.

**9.** An offensive weapon or part or combination of parts therefor shall not include the following:

**a. An antique firearm.** An antique firearm is any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898 or any firearm which is a replica of such a firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using conventional rimfire or centerfire ammunition or which uses only rimfire or centerfire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

**b. A collector's item.** A collector's item is any firearm other than a machinegun that by reason of its date of manufacture, value, design, and other characteristics is not likely to be used as a weapon. The commissioner of

public safety shall designate by rule firearms which he or she determines to be collector's items and shall revise or update the list of firearms at least annually.

**c.** Any device which is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon; any device which is designed solely for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing, safety or similar device; or any firearm which is unserviceable by reason of being unable to discharge a shot by means of an explosive and is incapable of being readily restored to a firing condition.

**724.2. Authority to possess offensive weapons.** Any of the following is authorized to possess an offensive weapon when his or her duties or lawful activities require or permit such possession:

- 1.** Any peace officer.
- 2.** Any member of the armed forces of the United States or of the national guard.
- 3.** Any person in the service of the United States.
- 4.** A correctional officer, serving in an institution under the authority of the Iowa department of corrections.
- 5.** Any person who under the laws of this state and the United States, is lawfully engaged in the business of supplying those authorized to possess such devices.
- 6.** Any person, firm or corporation who under the laws of this state and the United States is lawfully engaged in the improvement, invention or manufacture of firearms.
- 7.** Any museum or similar place which possesses, solely as relics, offensive weapons which are rendered permanently unfit for use.

**724.3. Unauthorized possession of offensive weapons.** Any person, other than a person authorized herein, who knowingly possesses an offensive weapon commits a class D felony. \* \* \* \*

**724.15. Annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers.**

- 1.** Any person who acquires ownership of any pistol or revolver shall first obtain an annual permit. An annual permit shall not be issued to any person unless:
  - a.** The person is twenty-one years of age or older.
  - b.** The person has never been convicted of a felony.
  - c.** The person is not addicted to the use of alcohol or a controlled substance.
  - d.** The person has no history of repeated acts of violence.
  - e.** The person has never been convicted of a crime defined in chapter 708, except "assault" as defined in section 708.1 and "harassment" as defined in section 708.7.
  - f.** The person has never been adjudged mentally incompetent.
- 2.** Any person who acquires ownership of a pistol or revolver shall not be required to obtain an annual permit if:
  - a.** The person transferring the pistol or revolver and the person acquiring the pistol or revolver are licensed firearms dealers under federal law;
  - b.** The pistol or revolver acquired is an antique firearm, a collector's item, a device which is not designed or redesigned for use as a weapon, a device which is designed solely for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line-throwing,

safety, or similar device, or a firearm which is unserviceable by reason of being unable to discharge a shot by means of an explosive and is incapable of being readily restored to a firing condition; or

**c.** The person acquiring the pistol or revolver is authorized to do so on behalf of a law enforcement agency.

**d.** The person has obtained a valid permit to carry weapons, as provided in section 724.11.

**e.** The person transferring the pistol or revolver and the person acquiring the pistol or revolver are related to one another within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity unless the person transferring the pistol or revolver knows that the person acquiring the pistol or revolver would be ineligible to obtain a permit.

**3.** The annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers shall authorize the permit holder to acquire one or more pistols or revolvers during the period that the permit remains valid. If the issuing officer determines that the applicant has become disqualified under the provisions of subsection 1, he or she may immediately invalidate the permit.

**724.16. Annual permit to acquire required.**

**1.** Except as otherwise provided in section 724.15, subsection 2, a person who acquires ownership of a pistol or revolver without a valid annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers or a person who transfers ownership of a pistol or revolver to a person who does not have in the person's possession a valid annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

**2.** A person who transfers ownership of a pistol or revolver to a person that the transferor knows is prohibited by section 724.15 from acquiring ownership of a pistol or revolver commits a class "D" felony.

**724.17. Application for annual permit to acquire.** The application for an annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers may be made to the sheriff of the county of the applicant's residence and shall be on a form prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety. The application shall state the full name of the applicant, the social security number of the applicant, the residence of the applicant, and the age of the applicant. \* \* \* \*

**724.19. Issuance of annual permit to acquire.** The annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers shall be issued to the applicant immediately upon completion of the application unless the applicant is disqualified under the provisions of section 724.15 and shall be on a form prescribed and published by the commissioner of public safety. The permit shall contain the name of the permittee, the social security number of the permittee, the residence of the permittee, and the effective date of the permit.

**724.20. Validity of annual permit to acquire pistols or revolvers.** The permit shall be valid throughout the state and shall be valid three days after the date of application and shall be invalid one year after the date of application.

**724.21. Giving false information when acquiring weapon.** A person who gives a false name or presents false identification, or otherwise gives false infor-

mation to one from whom the person seeks to acquire a pistol or revolver, commits an aggravated misdemeanor.

**724.22. Persons under twenty-one - sale, loan, gift, making available - possession.**

1. Except as provided in subsection 3, a person who sells, loans, gives, or makes available a rifle or shotgun or ammunition for a rifle or shotgun to a minor commits a serious misdemeanor for a first offense and a class "D" felony for second and subsequent offenses.

2. Except as provided in subsections 4 and 5, a person who sells, loans, gives, or makes available a pistol or revolver or ammunition for a pistol or revolver to a person below the age of twenty-one commits a serious misdemeanor for a first offense and a class "D" felony for second and subsequent offenses.

3. A parent, guardian, spouse who is eighteen years of age or older, or another with the express consent of the minor's parent or guardian or spouse who is eighteen years of age or older may allow a minor to possess a rifle or shotgun or the ammunition therefor which may be lawfully used.

4. A person eighteen, nineteen, or twenty years of age may possess a firearm and the ammunition therefor while on military duty or while a peace officer, security guard or correctional officer, when such duty requires the possession of such a weapon or while the person receives instruction in the proper use thereof from an instructor who is twenty-one years of age or older.

5. A parent or guardian or spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, of a person fourteen years of age but less than twenty-one may allow the person to possess a pistol or revolver or the ammunition therefor for any lawful purpose while under the direct supervision of the parent or guardian or spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, or while the person receives instruction in the proper use thereof from an instructor twenty-one years of age or older, with the consent of such parent, guardian or spouse.

6. For the purposes of this section, caliber .22 rimfire ammunition shall be deemed to be rifle ammunition. \* \* \* \*

**724.24. Purchase or sale of firearms in contiguous states.**

A resident of Iowa not otherwise precluded by applicable law, may purchase rifles, shotguns ammunition, reloading components, or firearms accessories in states contiguous to Iowa. \* \* \* \*

A dealer licensed in Iowas may sell or deliver a rifle or shotgun, and a collector licensed in Iowa may sell or deliver a rifle or shotgun if it is a curio or relic, to a resident of an adjacent state, if the purchaser's state of residence permits such sale or delivery by law, the sale fully complies with the legal conditions of Iowa and the adjacent State, and the purchaser and licensee have, prior to the sale or delivery for sale of the rifle or shotgun, complied with all the requirements of the federal gun control act of 1968.

**724.25. Felony and antique firearm defined.**

1. As used in sections 724.8, subsection 2, and 724.26, the word "felony" means any offense punishable in the jurisdiction where it occurred by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, but does not include any offense, other than an offense involving a firearm or explosive, classified as a misdemeanor

under the laws of the state and punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or less.

2. As used in this chapter an "antique firearm" means any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898. An antique firearm also means a replica of a firearm so described if the replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition or if the replica uses rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

**724.26. Receipt, transportation and dominion and control of firearms and offensive weapons by felons.**

A person who is convicted of a felony in a state or federal court and who knowingly has under the person's dominion and control, receives, or transports or causes to be transported a firearm or offensive weapon is guilty of a class "D" felony.

**724.27. Exception to sections \* \* \* \* 724.15, subsection 1, and 724.26.** The provisions of \* \* \* \* 724.15, subsection 1, paragraphs "b" and "e", and 724.26 shall not apply to a person who is eligible to have the person's civil rights regarding firearms restored under section 914.7 and who is pardoned or has had his or her civil rights restored by the President of the United States or the chief executive of a state and who is expressly authorized by the President of the United States or such chief executive to receive, transport, or possess firearms or destructive devices.

**724.28. Prohibition of regulation by political subdivisions.**

A political subdivision of the state shall not enact an ordinance regulating the ownership, possession, legal transfer, lawful transportation, registration, or licensing of firearms when the ownership, possession, transfer, or transportation is otherwise lawful under the laws of this state. An ordinance regulating firearms in violation of this section existing on or after April 5, 1990, is void.

**724.29. Firearm devices.**

A person who sells or offers for sale a manual or power-driven trigger activating device constructed and designed so that when attached to a firearm increases the rate of fire of the firearm is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.

**Publisher's Note:**

The following jurisdictions restrict the age at which it is lawful for a person to purchase or receive a firearm [An asterisk (\*) next to a name indicates another listing]

Bettendorf  
Davenport